

venient. How or why these differences of expression became current among people so closely related it is difficult to determine. Be this as it may, a New Brunswicker would no more think of calling his wood sled a "sleigh" than he would of calling his dump cart a carriage. This, of course, does not imply that he is more correct than his Prince Edward Island neighbour, though it serves to illustrate a peculiar provincial contrast.

To "hitch" a horse is more or less used in all the provinces by the sea, but in the horse-producing province the process is generally spoken of as "yoking" a horse. This, at first, sounds a little strange to the visitor from abroad, where the word "yoke" is seldom or never used except as applied to oxen. In the neighbouring provinces the horse is generally "harnessed," though sometimes he is "tackled," but, I think, never "yoked." As the ox is absolutely extinct in Prince Edward Island as a beast of burden, the word "yoke" can be applied to the horse without involving confusion. Perhaps it has survived to its present use from the pioneer days when ox teams were prevalent.

Speaking of the ox and the horse naturally suggests the word "team." In the mainland provinces this word is made to cover a wider range of use than strict dictionary authority would allow. In this connection the Prince Edward Islander scores a point for correctness over his neighbours. On the mainland a team applies, generally, to draft animals of any description or number in the performance of a task of labour. It might be an "ox team" or a "horse team," a "double" or a "single team," but always a team. On Prince Edward Island, however, the more proper distinction is observed, and a team consists of not less than two animals united in a common task. When one animal only is employed another term is used to designate it. Though this is supported by the best

of authority, it is nevertheless somewhat confusing to the visitor from the "other side." In this connection it is related that a clergyman, soon after settling on the island, was asked by a parishioner if he had noticed a team passing down the road a short time before. The clergyman promptly replied that he had, and not only one, but a number, quite recently. At this his questioner expressed surprise, and others standing near thought the new minister either saw visions or had scant regard for the truth, as they had seen none. Fortunately, explanations were soon made, and the clergyman was able to save his reputation for veracity. He also had a new conception of what constituted "a team" in his new field.

The foregoing may introduce us to some of the necessary equipment of the team. For example, the words "whiffle-tree" and "swingle-tree" come to mind. These words mean precisely the same thing, but are strictly provincial in their use, and both are correct. But why this little piece of equipment should be called a "whiffle-tree" in New Brunswick and a "swingle-tree" in Prince Edward Island is not easy to determine.

From the foregoing it will be seen how a number of these provincialisms could be combined in a single sentence without expressing anything unusual to the ear of a person accustomed to hear them. For example, "Mr. Jones yoked his horse yesterday to the bob-sleighs and went to the bush for a load of var longers, but on coming home, I hear, he broke his swingle-tree, whatever."

As already noted, strictly speaking, no oxen are used in Prince Edward Island, and yet the words "ox" and "oxen" are everywhere used almost to the exclusion of the more common and appropriate term, "steer." In other provinces an "ox" is a male animal of the bovine species, grown to maturity, and not intended for